

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of enforcing network quality of service policy  
2 information at one or more policy enforcement points, the method comprising the  
3 computer-implemented steps of:  
4 receiving active QoS configuration information at a policy enforcement point;  
5 receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
6 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;  
7 storing the active QoS configuration information and the inactive configuration in  
8 logically separate areas of memory of a network device that serves as the  
9 policy enforcement point;  
10 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in  
11 combination with the active QoS configuration information;  
12 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
13 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

1 2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving new  
2 configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a decision message  
3 from the policy decision point and determining whether the decision message  
4 identifies an inactive configuration.

1 4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving new  
2 configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a COPS decision  
3 message from the policy decision point that identifies the configuration information  
4 as an inactive configuration by a specified message type value in a Context object that  
5 forms part of the decision message.

1 5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving new  
2 configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a decision message  
3 from the policy decision point that identifies the configuration information as an  
4 inactive configuration by a specified flag bit in a message type value in a Context  
5 object that forms part of the decision message.

1 6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein determining whether the inactive  
2 configuration information is properly functional comprises the steps of combining the  
3 inactive configuration information with the active QoS configuration to result in  
4 creating a combined configuration and carrying out one or more consistency checks  
5 using the combined configuration without actually deploying the combined  
6 configuration to the policy enforcement point.

1 7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein making the new configuration  
2 information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in  
3 response to receiving an activation message comprises the steps of:  
4 receiving an empty install decision message from the policy decision point;

5 updating the active QoS configuration information using the inactive configuration  
6 and thereby deploying the inactive configuration as a new active  
7 configuration;  
8 copying the active configuration to the inactive configuration.

1 8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein making the new configuration  
2 information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in  
3 response to receiving an activation message comprises the steps of:  
4 receiving an install named object decision message from the policy decision point;  
5 installing the object named in the decision message as the active QoS configuration  
6 information;  
7 deleting the inactive configuration;  
8 copying the active configuration to the inactive configuration.

1 9. (Previously Presented) A method of enforcing network quality of service policy  
2 information from a policy server acting as a policy decision point at one or more  
3 routers that are acting as policy enforcement points, the method comprising the  
4 computer-implemented steps of:  
5 receiving active QoS configuration information;  
6 receiving a COPS protocol decision message from the policy decision point that  
7 identifies new configuration information as an inactive configuration by a  
8 specified flag bit in a message type value in a Context object that forms part  
9 of the decision message;

10 storing the new configuration information as an inactive configuration of the policy  
11 enforcement point;  
12 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in  
13 combination with the active QoS configuration information;  
14 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
15 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enforcing network quality of service policy  
2 information at one of a plurality of policy enforcement points, comprising:  
3 means for creating and storing active QoS configuration information at one of the  
4 plurality of policy enforcement points;  
5 means for receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
6 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point,  
7 wherein the active QoS configuration information and the inactive  
8 configuration are stored in logically separate areas of memory of a network  
9 device that serves as the policy enforcement point;  
10 means for determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly  
11 functional in combination with the active QoS configuration information;  
12 means for making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
13 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

1  
1 11. (Original) An apparatus for enforcing network quality of service policy information at  
2 one of a plurality of policy enforcement points, comprising:  
3 one or more network interfaces;

4 one or more processors coupled to the one or more network interfaces for receiving  
5 network information therefrom and enforcing one or more network quality of  
6 service policies thereon;  
7 one or more stored sequences of instructions accessible to the one or more processors  
8 and which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or  
9 more processors to carry out the steps of:  
10 creating and storing active QoS configuration information at one of the  
11 plurality of policy enforcement points;  
12 receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
13 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement  
14 point;  
15 storing the active QoS configuration information and the inactive  
16 configuration in logically separate areas of memory of a network  
17 device that serves as the policy enforcement point;  
18 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly  
19 functional in combination with the active QoS configuration  
20 information;  
21 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
22 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

1 12. (Previously Presented) A router acting as a policy enforcement point for enforcing one or  
2 more network quality of service policies received from a policy server acting as a  
3 policy decision point for a network that includes the router and one or more other  
4 policy enforcement points, the router comprising:

5 one or more network interfaces;  
6 one or more processors coupled to the one or more network interfaces for receiving  
7 network information therefrom and enforcing one or more network quality of  
8 service policies thereon;  
9 one or more stored sequences of instructions accessible to the one or more processors  
10 and which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or  
11 more processors to carry out the steps of:  
12 receiving active QoS configuration information;  
13 receiving a COPS protocol decision message from the policy decision point  
14 that identifies new configuration information as an inactive  
15 configuration by a specified flag bit in a message type value in a  
16 Context object that forms part of the decision message;  
17 storing the new configuration information as an inactive configuration of the  
18 policy enforcement point;  
19 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly  
20 functional in combination with the active QoS configuration  
21 information;  
22 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
23 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation  
24 message.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences  
2 of instructions for enforcing network quality of service policy information at one or

3 more policy enforcement points, which instructions, when executed by one or more  
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:  
5 receiving active QoS configuration information at a policy enforcement point;  
6 receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
7 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;  
8 storing the active QoS configuration information and the inactive configuration in  
9 logically separate areas of memory of a network device that serves as the  
10 policy enforcement point;  
11 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in  
12 combination with the active QoS configuration information;  
13 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
14 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of  
2 receiving new configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a  
3 COPS decision message from the policy decision point and determining whether the  
4 decision message identifies an inactive configuration

1 16. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of  
2 receiving new configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a  
3 decision message from the policy decision point that identifies the configuration

information as an inactive configuration by a specified message type value in a  
Context object that forms part of the decision message.

17. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of  
receiving new configuration information further comprises the steps of receiving a  
decision message from the policy decision point that identifies the configuration  
information as an inactive configuration by a specified flag bit in a message type  
value in a Context object that forms part of the decision message.

18. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein determining  
whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional comprises the  
steps of combining the inactive configuration information with the active QoS  
configuration to result in creating a combined configuration and carrying out one or  
more consistency checks using the combined configuration without actually  
deploying the combined configuration to the policy enforcement point.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein making the new  
configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration information  
only in response to receiving an activation message comprises the steps of:  
receiving an empty install decision message from the policy decision point;  
updating the active QoS configuration information using the inactive configuration  
and thereby deploying the inactive configuration as a new active  
configuration;  
copying the active configuration to the inactive configuration.



1 20. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein making the  
2 new configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration  
3 information only in response to receiving an activation message comprises the  
4 steps of:  
5 receiving an install named object decision message from the policy decision  
6 point;  
7 installing the object named in the decision message as the active QoS  
8 configuration information;  
9 deleting the inactive configuration;  
10 copying the active configuration to the inactive configuration.

1 21. (New) A method of enforcing network quality of service policy information at a  
2 plurality of policy enforcement points, the method comprising at each of the  
3 plurality of policy enforcement points performing the computer-implemented  
4 steps of:  
5 receiving active QoS configuration information at a policy enforcement point;  
6 receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
7 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;  
8 storing the active QoS configuration information and the inactive configuration in  
9 logically separate areas of memory of a network device that serves as the  
10 policy enforcement point;  
11 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional  
12 in combination with the active QoS configuration information;

13 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
14 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation  
15 message.

1 22. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 for enforcing network quality of service policy information at a plurality of policy  
3 enforcement points, which instructions, when executed by one or more  
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out, at each of the plurality  
5 of policy enforcement points, the steps of:  
6 receiving active QoS configuration information at a policy enforcement point;  
7 receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration  
8 information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;  
9 storing the active QoS configuration information and the inactive configuration in  
10 logically separate areas of memory of a network device that serves as the  
11 policy enforcement point;  
12 determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional  
13 in combination with the active QoS configuration information;  
14 making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS  
15 configuration information only in response to receiving an activation  
16 message.